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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 20, 1989

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President today directed that the United States Government suspend participation in all high-level exchanges of government officials with the People's Republic of China, in addition to the suspension of military exchanges previously announced. This action is being taken in response to the wave of violence and reprisals by the Chinese authorities against those who have called for democracy. The U.S. has supported the legitimate democratic aspirations for freedom of peoples throughout the world. The U.S. will continue to voice its concern and its support for these aspirations.

The U.S. hopes that the current tragedy in China be brought to a peaceful end and that dialogue will replace the atmosphere of suspicion and reprisal. China is an important state with which we hope to continue productive relations.

In addition to the ban on exchanges, the U.S. will seek to postpone consideration of new international financial institutions' loans to China. The situation in China is of international concern as witnessed by the variety of voices that have spoken up on the issue. We urge continued international expressions of concern.

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